

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DC SIENA PARTY STRUCTURE SUPPORTS ZACCAGNINI

REF: FLORENCE 0018

1. SUMMARY. DC PARTY STUCTURE IN PROVINCE OF SIENA IN HANDS OF 30 YEAR OLD YOUNG TURKS. THEY, LIKE THEIR FELLOWS IN LUCCA (REFTEL), HAVE BEGUN TO REBUILD PARTY FROM BASE AND HAVE AS PRIME AIM REMOVAL OF FANFANI AND HIS FAITHFUL FROM POSITIONS OF POWER. UNITED STATES ASSOCIATED IN THEIR MINDS WITH CONSERVATIVE DC FACTIONS AND THEIR FEAR IS THAT U.S. WILL RETARD RATHER THAN REINFORCE EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO RENEW PARTY PERSONALITIES WITH RESULTANT DAMAGE TO DC AND LONG TERM DAMAGE TO US VITAL INTERESTS IN ITALY.

2. DURING VISIT TO PROVINCIAL DC HEADQUARTERS IN SIENA, CONSULATE POLITICAL OFFICER HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO DC PROVINCIAL VICE SECRETARY (BERNINI) AND DC PARTY LEADER IN PROVINCIAL SIENA ASSEMBLY (CENNI). BOTH MEN RESEMBLE NEW WAVE OF DC LEADERSHIP--WHICH ALSO VISIBLE IN LUCCA. THEY ARE IN MID-30'S, ENTHUSIASTIC, AND IF APPEARANCE ANY GUIDE, HARD WORKING. BERNINI INDICATED THAT DC IN PROVINCE WHERE COMMUNISTS HAVE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY HAS BEEN HELPED BY LOSS OF POWER SINCE "CLIENTISM" HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM PARTY'S BACK. BERNINI INDICATED THAT YOUTH ATTRACTION TO PARTY IS NO PROBLEM AND NOT CLOUDED BY SUSPICION THAT PERSONAL AGGRANDIZEMENT RATHER THAN COMMITMENT IS BASE OF SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES.

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3. BOTH SOURCES BEMOANED RESULTS OF FANFANI LEADERSHIP TO DC WHICH CAUSED ELECTORAL LOSSES AND STILL CAUSES INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES BY THE SKILL WITH WHICH THE SENATOR HAS PLACED HIS MEN IN KEY POSITIONS. WITH REGARD TO CURRENT PARTY ELECTIONS FOR REGIONAL CONGRESS, BERNINI ESTIMATED FANFANI WOULD POLL UP TO 40 PERCENT OF WHICH HALF ARE DEDICATED LOYALISTS WITH REMAINDER ATTRACTED TO FORLANI. LINEA ZACCAGNINI, SUPPORTED BY PARTY APPARATUS, IN THEIR JUDGEMENT WOULD POLL MORE THAN THE FANFANI WITH BALANCE GOING TO MEMBERS WITH DOROTEI AND ANDREOTTINI SYMPATHIES.

4. BOTH MEN EXPRESS WISH "U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT" WOULD PAY ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENTS OF DC "AT BASE" AND NOT TRY TO IMPEDE NATURAL EVOLUTION OF DC TOWARDS MORE "SOCIALY ADVANCED" POSITIONS. BERNINI STATED IF FANFANI REMAINS FORCE IN DC, PARTY FINISHED AS MAJOR ELEMENT IN ITALIAN POLITICAL LIFE AND WILL BECOME MERELY A MINORITY CONSERVATIVE PARTY. RESULT, IN HIS OPINION, WILL BE ENTRANCE OF PCI TO GOVERNMENT WITH EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. BASES (SIC) FROM ITALY. GORDAN

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